

to be selfless contributing members to the community.

Mr. President, the citizens of Kentucky are proud to have Girl Scouts' Wilderness Road Council's troops living and learning in their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth. The Girl Scouts' Wilderness Road Council have found a successful way to bring out the best in its young women, and I personally thank the leaders and supporters of this great organization for continually producing strong and bright young women committed to making Kentucky a better place to live.●

HONORING EDWARD N. FRIESZ ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I recognize a North Dakotan who is celebrating a special birthday this weekend. On Saturday, February 14, 2004, friends and family will gather in Mandan, ND to celebrate and honor Edward N. Friesz on his eightieth birthday.

Edward Friesz was born on February 14, 1924 to Adam and Magdalena Friesz on a farmstead near Fellon, ND. The oldest of nine children, Edward worked on his parents' farm before moving to Mandan, ND to live and work. He worked at various places before retiring in 1989 from the Morton County Courthouse.

In 1951, Edward met Elsie Frohlich, a friend and coworker of his sister, Irene. Edward and Elsie were married on September 30, 1953 in Bismarck. Last fall, the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mark Twain once wrote, "Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been." Edward's greatest joy in life—the origin of many of those smiles—is his family.

Edward and Elsie started their family in 1954 with the arrival of their first child, Delphine. Their family would grow to include three daughters, Delphine, Sharon and Annette, and three sons, Kennard, Gerard and Maynard.

Edward and Elsie are also proud grandparents. They have 10 grandchildren ranging in age from 25 to 1. They include: Trever, Anton, Maria, Elizabeth, Alec, Jakob, Brett, Rachael, Ryan and Adam.

While the family has spread throughout the country, they remain very close. The family comes together for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and special occasions. Twelve years ago, the family started a new tradition: a summer campout. Armed with tents and campers, sleeping bags and lanterns, the Edward and Elsie Friesz family embark each year on a weekend campout to share food, fun and fellowship.

Over the past 12 years, they have camped in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. They have endured rainstorms, thunderstorms, and cold and hot temperatures. As the fam-

ily has grown, so have the annual campouts. One year, they even designed t-shirts to commemorate the family tradition.

This Valentine's Day, February 14, 2004, the family will get together again this time to celebrate their patriarch's 80th birthday.

I extend a warm birthday greeting to Edward Friesz and wish him well on his 80th birthday.●

HERMAN A. MACDONALD, OREGON VETERAN HERO

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I rise to honor an Oregon veteran who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to his country and to his State. Herman A. "Mac" MacDonald was born in 1929 in Boston, MA and has lived in Oregon since the 1978. Mac's entire life has been dedicated to serving America, its veterans, and citizens.

Mac's military career began shortly after he graduated from high school in 1948, when he joined the United States Coast Guard Reserves while attending Bryant College. After graduation, Mac joined the United States Marine Corps, as an officer. Mac's military career sent him to distant lands to defend America's interests. He served in combat on the main line of resistance in Korea; he was stationed in Virginia, Hawaii, Illinois, California and Japan. He served as the Commanding Officer of Force Reconnaissance at Camp Pendleton. He also served in Vietnam as part of the top-secret Studies and Observation Group, SOG. Along with the team, Mac served with Marine Reconnaissance, Navy SEALs, and the Green Berets.

After Vietnam, Mac was transferred to Marine Headquarters in Washington, DC, where he became a military aide for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, George Romney. Mac's military background provided Secretary Romney with important insight for policy decisions. Following his service with the Secretary, Mac moved to Toronto, Canada, where he was an instructor at the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College. He returned to the United States in 1976, and retired from the military in 1978. Upon retirement, he had earned a total of 24 ribbons, five of which were personal decorations, in addition to Presidential Unit Citations from the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps.

For Mac, retirement meant a chance to follow a new dream. His compassion for children brought him to the classroom, where he became a teacher. From 1978-1985, Mac taught in the Salem School District in Oregon, where he worked with troubled teenagers. He became the principal of the Woodburn Gervais alternative high school and retired in 1999.

Mac continues to serve veterans today as an advocate for Oregon veterans' organizations. He is also the curator of the Oregon Military Edu-

cational Display, a collection of uniforms, medals, and artifacts from various wars throughout history. The items are put on a display for a month each year at the Oregon State Capitol.

Mac has lived in West Salem since 1978 and is proud to call himself an Oregonian. He's been married to his wife Vi for 46 years and has two grown children, and two grandsons.

For his selfless service to others, and to the United States in times of war, I salute Herman A. "Mac" MacDonald as an Oregon Veteran Hero.●

RUSSELL H. PHELPS III, UNITED STATES NAVY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today with friends and family to recognize the efforts and dedication of CDR Russell H. Phelps III, an outstanding American. Commander Phelps began his military career in 1908 as an Arabic linguist assigned in Athens, Greece. Working in a national airborne reconnaissance program, he supported U.S. military missions to Lebanon, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Honorably discharged in 1985, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Northern Iowa in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations.

He earned a Naval commission as a Special Duty Officer (Cryptology) upon completion of the Officer Candidate School in September 1988, whereupon he was assigned to the Naval Security Group Activity (NSGA) Rota, Spain. During that tour, he was assigned to the staff of the Commander, Middle East Force, Bahrain, and aboard USS *O'Bannon* (DD-987) and USS *Aubrey Fitch* (FFG-34) in support of Operation Earnest Will, the escort of re-flagged Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Arabian Gulf. Between 1989 and 1991, Commander Phelps was additionally assigned to the USS *Wainwright* (CG-28), USS *Baton Rouge* (SSN-689), USS *Silversides* (SSN-679), USS *Providence* (SSN-719), and to the USS *Pittsburgh* (SSN-720) during combat support operations throughout Operation Desert Storm.

Commander Phelps next assignment was to the USS *Oldendorf*, where he served as the Cryptologic Officer, Tactical Action Officer, and for 6 months as the Operations Officer, culminating in his qualifications as a Surface Warfare Officer. Detaching in 1994, he reported to Menwith Hill Station, Harrogate, England, and served as a Deputy Division Chief and member of the Regional Security Operations Center (RSOC) transition team. A plank owner of NSGA Menwith Hill, he simultaneously served in operations and as its first Executive Officer from 1995 to 1996. Commander Phelps next served at the Tactical Training Group Pacific, San Diego, CA, where he provided training to Battle group and warfare commanders in Cryptology, Information Warfare, and space systems operations. From 1999 to 2001, Commander Phelps served on the Staff of Commander, Carrier Group Seven as the

Flag Cryptologist and deployed to the Middle East as the Cryptologic Resources Coordinator for John C. Stennis Battle Group and Bon Homme Richard Amphibious Ready Group.

Commander Phelps' most recent assignment was at U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI, where he earned a Master of Arts (with Distinction) in Strategy and National Security Decision Making.

Military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (4 oak clusters in lieu of 5th award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two gold stars in lieu of third award), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (gold star in lieu of second award), as well as several unit and campaign awards.

Commander Phelps is married to the former Ms. Diana Weetman, of North Yorkshire, England.

Mr. President, I stand with all those whose lives are richer for having known Commander Phelps to commemorate and recognize his efforts and dedication on this Sixteenth day of February, Two-thousand and Four.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—PM 63

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Joint Economic Committee:

To the Congress of the United States:

As 2004 begins, America's economy is strong and getting stronger. Over the past several years, this Nation has faced major economic challenges resulting from the decline of the stock market beginning in early 2000, a recession that began shortly after, revelations about corporate governance scandals, slow growth among many of our major trading partners, terrorist attacks, and the war against terror, including in Afghanistan and Iran. These challenges affected business and consumer confidence and resulted in hardship for people in many industries and regions of our Nation. Americans have responded to each challenge, and now we have the results: renewed con-

fidence, strong growth, new jobs, and a mounting prosperity that will reach every corner of America.

This Report, prepared by my Council of Economic Advisers, describes the economic challenges we faced, the actions we took, and the results we are seeing. It also discusses our plans to continue growing the economy and creating jobs.

In May 2003, I signed a Jobs and Growth bill that focused on three key goals. First, we accelerated previously passed tax relief and let American households keep more of their own money to save, invest, and spend. Second, we increased incentives for small businesses to invest in new equipment and plant expansions. Third, we enacted important tax relief on dividend income and capital gains to help investors and businesses. These actions were designed to promote investment, job creation, and income growth. By all three measures of performance, we are seeing signs of success.

Since May 2003, we have seen the economy grow at its fastest pace in nearly 20 years. Consumers and businesses have gained confidence. Retail sales are strong, and Americans are buying, building, and renovating houses at a record pace. Investment has strengthened, with spending on business equipment the best in 5 years. The unemployment rate has fallen from its peak of 6.3 percent last June to 5.7 percent in December, and employment is beginning to rise as new jobs are created, especially in small businesses. Productivity growth has been strong, leading to higher incomes for workers, while the tax relief we passed means that American families keep more of their money instead of sending it to Washington.

We are moving in the right direction, but have more to do. I will not be satisfied until every American who wants a job can find one. I have outlined a six-point plan to promote job creation and strong economic growth. This plan includes initiatives to help manage rising health care costs to make health care more affordable and accessible for American workers and families, reduce the burden of junk lawsuits on the economy; ensure a reliable and affordable energy supply; simplify and streamline government regulations; open foreign markets for American goods and services; and allow businesses and families to keep more of their hard-earned money and plan with confidence by making our tax relief permanent. This year, I will work with the Congress to achieve these goals.

I will also continue to work with the Congress on another important shared goal: controlling federal spending and reducing the deficit. The federal budget is in deficit, foremost because of the economic slowdown and then recession that began in 2000 and the additional costs of fighting the war on terror and protecting the homeland. We are continuing to take action to restrain spending and bring the deficits down.

By carefully evaluating priorities and being good stewards of the taxpayer's money, we will cut the budget deficit in half over the next five years.

The task of reducing the deficit will become easier because America's economy is growing. We have taken the actions needed to restore growth, and we are pursuing additional policies to help create jobs for American workers and families. I'm optimistic about the future of our economy because I know the values of America and the decency and entrepreneurial spirit of our people.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6198. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A300 B2, A300B4, A300B4-600, A300B4600R, A300F4-600R, A310, A330, and A340 Airplanes Doc. No. 2001-NM-154" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 4, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6199. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Bombardier Model CL-200-2C10 (Regional Jet Series 700 and 701) Series Airplanes Doc. No. 2003-NM-159" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 4, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6200. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 747-400 and 400F Series Airplanes Doc. No. 2003-NM-140" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 4, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6201. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 737-100, 200, 200C, 300, 400, and 500 Series Airplanes Doc. No. 2003-NM-249" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 4, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6202. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Model PC-6 Airplanes Doc. No. 2003-CE-01" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 4, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6203. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Raytheon Aircraft Company Model 1900, 1900C, and 1900D Airplanes Doc. No. 2003-CE-16" (RIN2120-AA64) received on February 4, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6204. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica